GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
CULTIVABLE LAND BECOMING INFERTILE
VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivable land has rapidly become infertile in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to check this trend; and

(c) the schemes launched in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh in this context alongwith the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.267 DUE FOR REPLY ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2002.

(a) to (c): Intensive cropping with high inputs, high yielding varieties, and soil erosion tend to cause decline in soil fertility in cultivable land, particularly in respect of secondary and micro nutrient elements due to their removal at a rate more than their replenishment.

According to an estimate, 1736.40 lakh ha. area is facing problem of soil erosion & land degradation in the country. The State-wise details are annexed.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is advocating soil and waterconservation and soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to restore soil fertility. Government is providing assistance for strengthening of soil testing laboratories under the scheme of `balanced and integrated use of fertilizer` which is presently being subsumed under macro management. Government is also providing assistance for setting up compost plants and bio-fertilizer units under national project on development and use of bio- fertilizers.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various land based programmes
(i) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA),

(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing, Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR) and
(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), to minimize land degradation which ultimately results in enhanced fertility inthe agricultural land of the country. The progress made under these schemes in the State of Madhya Pradesh is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Area Treated (`000 ha.)	Expenditure (Lakh)
1.	NWDPRA	994	21212.87
2.	RVP&FPR	1054	19454.55
3.	RAS	0.09	183.53